

To: **Mayor and City Council**  
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**  
From: **Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director**  
Date: **January 13, 2020**

## **1010 Dodd Community Arboretum**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At the October 28, 2019 OCWS, the City Council discussed options for the vacant lot at 1010 Dodd. The topic was forwarded to the Environmental Committee for further discussion, brainstorming and recommendations. A subcommittee was formed and the Committee has had discussions on this topic at its' last three meetings. The attached proposal has been developed and the Committee feels this is the best use for the property at this time. The proposal includes multiple raised bed pollinator gardens, the largest being a uniquely shaped Mandala garden. By definition, a mandala is "a geometric shape or pattern that symbolizes the universe; a meditation tool for creating sacred space, relaxation and focusing the mind; or a symbol used as a gateway to a spiritual journey." Mandalas are usually a circle that contain starburst, floral, wheel or spiral patterns within it. A mandala garden is simply a garden space with plants that take on this design principle. There would also be trees planted on the southern border of the property to act as a buffer with the residential properties. There would be a path or sidewalk that will dissect the property, along with picnic tables and benches to promote a community gathering space. Finally, there would be additional pollinator raised bed gardens and a welcome sign on the northeast corner. The idea would be to engage community and volunteer groups to plant and maintain sections of gardens.

If Council likes the proposal, the next steps would be to finalize plans through community engagement, create a budget, and develop a plan to gather interest and donations to fund the project.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This project, with all mentioned elements, is estimated to cost about \$23,000. Staff hopes that a majority of that could be raised through cash donations as well as donations of time and materials.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Provide input and direction